PADM 596: Research Methods for Public Managers
Spring 2016

Instructor: Shane Day
Time: Thursdays, 4:00pm - 6:30pm
Location: Dane Smith Hall 134
Office: Social Sciences 3006
Phone: (505) 750-4884
Email: shaneday@unm.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00pm – 5:00pm

Course Description and Goals:

This course serves as an introduction to the art of research design in the social sciences, and policy analysis in particular. We will examine various ontological and epistemological debates concerning knowledge generation in the social sciences, ranging from nomothetic orientations to completely context-specific approaches. Over the course of this discussion, we will examine the implicit hierarchy of "good" methods, identifying principles of scientific research design that apply to all approaches to research. While we will examine a variety of experimental, quantitative, and qualitative approaches to research, the majority of our attention will be paid to the theory and mechanics of quantitative methods, given their relative technical complexity. The goals of this course are to provide you with enough theory and practical experience to intelligently use real world data to support your research, to enable you to critique the research of others, and to prepare you for advanced methods courses, which may be necessary depending upon the nature of the research questions you will pursue in the future. Special emphasis will be placed on helping students identify relevant potential research subjects which may ultimately develop into projects which could fulfill the thesis or professional paper requirements of the MPA program.

Therefore, you should view this course as an introduction to the building blocks of research design, and we will just be scratching the surface of what is out there. We will sometimes move slowly, in order to ensure that you have a clear understanding of the material, since comprehension of the fundamental concepts we will be covering will be of utmost importance in both future coursework and in gaining a clear understanding of basic methods. In order to grasp this material, you will need (and be expected) to attend class regularly, read the course materials, and spend a good amount of time with the class exercises and with practicing problems independently. DO NOT GET BEHIND ON THE COURSE MATERIAL!

In addition, we will be using computers for a fair amount of the course, and you will come away with a good amount of practical computing skills pertaining to statistical analysis and graphical presentation of results. Students are expected to purchase a license for SPSS, one of the most widely used statistical software packages on the market, and we will be using it frequently during lecture. Please come see me *early* if you have any apprehensions.

By the end of the course students will have gained experience in:

1) Analyzing policies and programs by applying appropriate information technology and data management tools

2) Analyzing policies and programs by applying appropriate quantitative and/or qualitative analysis methods
3) Using statistical analysis and data management software
4) Developing sound research questions
5) Working with different types of data
6) Assessing the pros and cons of different research techniques

Note: this course has the prerequisite of at least an undergraduate course in statistics. It is assumed that all students have basic statistical skills and recent practice performing basic statistical analysis. If you have not recently taken an introductory course in statistics, you should come see the instructor ASAP.

Course Requirements and Grading:

As a research methods course, the daily format will consist of a mix of lectures addressing core conceptual issues, applied demonstration of research techniques, and frequent group and individual exercises in class. Therefore, I expect frequent attendance and ample preparation before class – this assumes that students will have read the readings for any particular week *before* class is held. The overarching emphasis of this course is to introduce several research methodologies that students may choose to employ within the context of their Professional Paper or Thesis. Therefore, the requirements for this course will emphasize reading and applied exercises that will serve as practice for performing and interpreting data analysis.

Evaluation of student performance and assignment of final grades will be based upon the following breakdown:

Homework Assignments (total of 9, 5% each):	45%
Midterm Examination:	20%
Final Examination:	20%
Participation:	15%

Homework: Your homework assignments collectively represent the largest single factor in your final grade. They are designed to provide practice for key concepts learned in class, and assignments will consist of either hand-written or computer-assisted exercises. Due dates will be strictly enforced: a 1/3 grade penalty per day will be assessed for late assignments, and *absolutely* no late assignments will be accepted after graded exercises are returned in class.

Examinations: Each of the examinations will be non-cumulative, and will cover only the material preceding the actual examination, although it is important to realize that much of the earlier material is foundational and important for understanding later units. Exams will consist primarily of several exercises that will require you to analyze a problem, and will also include essay type questions that aim to evaluate your understanding of key theoretical concepts. Calculators and any necessary statistical tables will be allowed in class – otherwise, the exams are closed book/note.

Participation: Students are expected to come to class having read *in advance* the readings assigned for that week, and prepared to participate in in-class exercises both in small groups and with the class as a whole. Attendance (or lack thereof) will be noted and used in the calculation of the participation portion of your grade.

Grading Appeals: If you have any questions pertaining to your grade for a particular assignment, you should take the matter up with me after waiting *at least* 24 hours.

Key Dates:
1/28: Assignment One due
2/9: Assignment Two due
2/23: Assignment Three due
3/1: Assignment Four due
3/8: Assignment Five due
3/10: Midterm Exam
4/5: Assignment Six due
4/14: Assignment Seven due
4/26: Assignment Eight due
5/5: Assignment Nine due
5/12: Final Examination, 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Required Materials:
There are two required textbooks for this course:

Berman, Evan M. and XiaoHu Wang. 2012. *Essential Statistics for Public Managers and Policy Analysts.* 3rd Edition. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

Frankfort-Nachmias, Chava and David Nachmias. 2008. *Research Methods in the Social Sciences.* 7th Edition. New York: Worth Publishers.

In addition, students will need a computer (laptop recommended) with SPSS installed. Discounted student licenses are available through the University Bookstore. If you do not wish to purchase SPSS, you will have to work from an on-campus computer lab that has computers with SPSS installed.

Additional readings will be available online through UNM Learn. Students should regularly consult UNM Learn through the University of New Mexico Homepage, as I will post the syllabus, course announcements, and other course materials throughout the semester.

Communication:
The easiest way to get a hold of me is through email at shaneday@unm.edu. I will check my email regularly and will respond as soon as I am able (*nota bene:* my availability over the weekend will often be limited). I will also be maintaining regular office hours, and am happy to meet with you in my office outside of established hours if I am available – arranging an appointment beforehand is helpful but not essential. I will also be using UNM Learn for posting course announcements – again, be sure to check it regularly. Furthermore, as of this semester, all students are REQUIRED to use their UNM email accounts for all electronic communications. This includes using only your UNM email account and Banner ID in the UNM Learn system. No communication will be conducted with outside (e.g. Gmail, Yahoo, etc.) email accounts.

Course Schedule and Outline:
The following is a tentative schedule of weekly topics. Note: the schedule is subject to change. I reserve the right to make revisions to the syllabus and to make adjustments to the reading assignments. I will announce such changes in class and through UNM Learn.

Week One – 1/21: Introductions
Assignment One: Complete IRB Training via CITI. Go to the following link: http://irb.unm.edu/?q=required-training, read the page, and then follow the embedded link to citiprogram.org. Note that you will need to do this from a University of New Mexico computer or a personal computer logged into the UNM network. After completing all required modules and quizzes for Social and Behavioral Research – Basic/Refresher course, print out your Curriculum Completion Report and bring to class next week (1/28).
> Note: Chapter 4 in Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias is useful optional reading that students may wish to read in advance of doing the CITI training.

Week Two – 1/28: Principles of Scientific Inquiry
Readings:
1) Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Chapters 1-3
2) Gerring, "Causation: A Unified Framework for the Social Sciences", *Journal of Theoretical Politics*
3) King, Keohane, and Verba, Chapter 1 from *Designing Social Inquiry*
4) Ahmed and Sil, "When Multi-Method Research Subverts Methodological Pluralism – or, Why We Still Need Single-Method Research", *Perspectives on Politics*
5) Brady and Collier, *Rethinking Social Inquiry: Diverse Tools, Shared Standards*, Chapter 6
***Assignment One due in class

Week Three – 2/4: Issues of Data and Measurement
Read:
1) Berman and Wang, Chapters 3 and 5
2) Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Chapters 7-8
***Assignment Two distributed in class: due via email 2/9

Week Four – 2/11: Experimental and Quasi-Experimental Research Designs
Read:
1) Berman and Wang, Chapter 2
2) Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Chapters 5 and 6
3) Dunning, "Improving Causal Inference: Strengths and Limitations of Natural Experiments." *Political Research Quarterly*

Week Five – 2/18: Descriptive Statistics
Read:
1) Berman and Wang, Chapters 6-8
2) Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Chapter 15
***Assignment Three distributed in class: due via email 2/23

Week Six – 2/25: Hypothesis Testing
Read:
1) Berman and Wang, Chapters 10-12
2) Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Chapter 19
 ***Assignment Four distributed in class: due via email 3/1

Week Seven – 3/3: Analysis of Variance
Read:
1) Berman and Wang, Chapters 13
2) Additional Readings TBA
 ***Assignment Five distributed in class: due via email 3/8

Week Eight – 3/10: Midterm Exam

Week Nine – 3/17: SPRING BREAK (NO CLASSES HELD)

Week Ten – 3/24: Introduction to Regression
Read:
1) Berman and Wang, Chapter 14
2) Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Chapter 16

Week Eleven – 3/31: Multivariate Regression
1) Berman and Wang, Chapter 15 & 16
2) Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Chapter 17
 ***Assignment Six distributed in class: due via email 4/5

Week Twelve – 4/7: Advanced Forms of Regression, and Introduction to Qualitative Data
Read:
1) Berman and Wang, Chapter 17
2) Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Chapters 9, 12, and 14
3) Leech, et al. "Symposium: Interview Methods in Political Science." *PS.*
4) Weston, et al., "Analyzing Interview Data: The Development and Evolution of a Coding System." *Qualitative Sociology.*
 ***Assignment Seven distributed via email after class: Due 4/14 in class.

Week Thirteen – 4/14: Comparative Method
Read:
1) Fearon, "Counterfactuals and Hypothesis Testing in Political Science", *World Politics*
2) George and Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences.*, Chapter 1
3) Lijphart, "Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method", *American Political Science Review*
4) Ragin, *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies,* Chapters 3-4

Week Fourteen – 4/21: Qualitative Comparative Analysis
Read:
1) Ragin, *The Comparative Method: Moving Beyond Qualitative and Quantitative Strategies*, Chapters 6-8
2) Rihoux, "Case-Oriented Configurational Research: Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA), Fuzzy Sets, and Related Techniques", in *The Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*
3) Rihoux and DeMeur, *Crisp Set Qualitative Comparative Analysis (csQCA)*
 ***Assignment Eight distributed in class: due via email 4/26

Week Fifteen – 4/28: Survey Research and Q Methodology
Read:
1) Frankfort-Nachmias and Nachmias, Chapters 10-11
2) Watts and Stenner, *Doing Q Methodological Research, Chapters 3, 4, and 7*
 ***Assignment Nine distributed via email after class: due in-class 5/5

Week Sixteen – 5/5: Single Case Studies
Read:
1) Collier, "Understanding Process Tracing", *PS: Political Science and Politics.*
2) George and Bennett, *Case Studies and Theory Development in the Social Sciences.*, Chapters 4 and 6
3) Gerring, "What is a Case Study and What is it Good for?" *American Political Science Review.*

Finals Week:
5/12: Final Exam, 5:30pm-7:30pm

Academic Integrity:
The University of New Mexico believes that academic honesty is a foundation principle for personal and academic development. All University policies regarding academic honesty apply to this course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or copying, plagiarism (claiming credit for the words or works of another from any type of source such as print, Internet or electronic database, or failing to cite the source), fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. The University's full statement on academic honesty and the consequences for failure to comply is available in the college catalog and in the Pathfinder. It is also the prerogative of the instructor to assign failing grades, either to a particular assignment or for the final course grade, to students who violate academic conduct standards.

Students with Disabilities:
Accessibility Services (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs office.

<u>Library and Tutorial Services:</u>
UNM-Main campus provides many library services and some tutorial services for both on-campus and distance students. For library services, go to http://www.unm.edu/libraries/ to link to a specific library or to contact a librarian. For tutorial services, go to http://caps.unm.edu/online to explore UNM's online services.